

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has canceled original claims 1-14 and added new claims 15-22. Accordingly, claims 15-22 are pending in the application. Basis for new claims 15-22 can be found in FIGS. 2-3 and the description thereof on page 6, line 3 through page 8, line 20; and the original claims. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Objections

On Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2-6 and 8-14 due to informalities. The Applicant has canceled claims 2-6 and 8-14 for other reasons, rendering the objections moot.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

On Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Momona (US 6,434,117). The Applicant has canceled claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13, and 14 due to clarity problems caused when the claims were amended upon entering the National Stage. The Applicant apologizes for the inconvenience. The Examiner's consideration of new claims 15-22 is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 15 and 22 recite a novel method and arrangement for access control in a multicast system. Claim 15 and 21 clearly recite the steps and means for determining whether to grant or deny a request from a first user to join a new multicast session. Each of the factors considered is defined within the claims. A review of Momona, particularly the operation of the multicast manager 10D described in columns 9-10, indicates that Momona discloses a completely different process. None of the factors considered by the Applicant's claimed invention are taught or suggested by Momona. Therefore, the allowance of claims 15-22 is respectfully requested.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On Page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 6, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Momona (US 6,434,117) in view of Richardson, et al. (US 2006/0038877). As noted above, the Applicant has canceled claims 4, 6, 10, and 12. The Examiner's consideration of new claims 15-22 is respectfully requested.

The Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 15-22 are not taught or suggested by the combination of Momona and Richardson. As noted, Momona does not disclose or suggest any of the factors considered by the claimed invention when determining whether to grant or deny a request from a first user to join a new multicast session. Richardson also fails to disclose or suggest these factors.

The Examiner cited Richardson for disclosing the step of determining that the first user used a session less than a predefined period of time. However, this step contained an error made when the claims were preliminarily amended. The step actually determines whether the first user previously used the session within a previous predefined period of time. In other words, the arbiter node determines how recently the first user left the session. If the first user recently left the session, the weight assigned to the first user is temporarily increased in order to make it easier for the first user to rejoin the session. Once the previous predefined period of time expires, the weight is reduced back to its original value (thus eliminating the special status of the first user to rejoin the session). These uses of a time period are not disclosed or suggested by Richardson.

Thus, the combination of Momona and Richardson does not disclose or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claims 15-22.

5.) Prior Art Not Relied Upon

On Page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

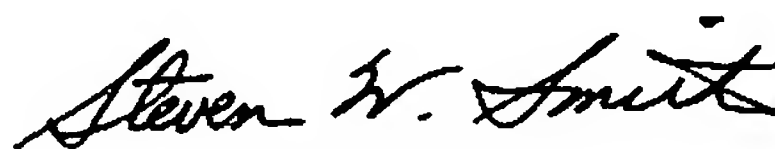
However, Rakib (US 2004/0181811) does not disclose or suggest the method or arrangement recited in new claims 15-22.

6.) Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 15-22.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: SEP. 8, 2009

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